

for the rivalry *among* the older children for the affection and homage of the younger members of the group. The (unconscious) logic of the situation might be expressed thus : " If the little ones love *me* better than they love you, that is a proof that I am better than you, i.e. less jealous of them, less hostile to them, less hostile to my parents for having them, more loving and lovable/" Or (with the more aggressive nature—but to some extent even with the more loving) " a proof that I am more *powerful*, less open to attack from them and/or my parents ". " But if they love and obey *you* more than they love and obey me, that is a proof not only of my helplessness against them, but of my badness, and of my helplessness against you and my avenging parents."

It is from this sort of source that the tussle between the children for social prestige in the group draws its intensity. Success and failure alike go deep into the unconscious life of the child, into his own needs and anxieties with regard to his parents.

In passing, it may be said that the actual experience of the child among his fellows does a great deal to help in the transformation of his first hostile impulses into protection and care, or into friendly co-operation. The initial hostility itself largely springs from unconscious *phantasy*—the phantasy of danger and exclusion and loss of love. But actual experience (with loving parents or a wise teacher) gradually lessens the hold of this phantasy over the child's feelings. He discovers that the grown-ups do still in reality love and value and cherish him, and that the other child is not such a dangerous enemy as he feared. And he discovers also that the other child may even become an *ally* against the parents themselves, those terribly powerful arbiters of life and

love. And so
he begins to seek and enjoy the pleasures of
companionship
and *togetherness* with other children.

The value of real experience among other
children (when
it is good and not bad) is seen very clearly with
such a child
as Joseph, at four and five years of age so
unfriendly and
suspicious of other children. In spite of this early
negative
attitude, Joseph did become more
companionable and freer
in his social relations. And he is reported
as being
much easier and happier, in the preparatory
school where
he now is, with understanding adults and an
active social
life.